

audio means for conveying an audio signal from one or more conferees;
camera means mounted within said housing and directed toward a user of said video conference station; and
payment means for activating said monitor, said audio means, said lighting means, said camera and said keyboard upon entry of payment, wherein said payment means is operable to receive standard commercial credit cards

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said payment means is [a credit card reading device] operable to receive currency.

7. (Amended) A video conferencing station for use in a video conferencing system comprising:
an outer casing;
display means, lighting means, and a video camera, all being mounted within said outer casing, said video camera and said lighting means being directed towards the same area, said display means being viewable from said same area; [and]
activating means for activating said display means, said lighting means, [a] and said video camera upon request by a user; and
payment means for accepting a standard commercial credit card or currency.

10. (Amended) The video conference station of claim 9 [further comprising payment means for accepting a credit card and] wherein said activating means only operates in response to payment received by said payment means.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. By this Response, claims 1, 2, 7 and 10 have been amended.

Reconsideration in view of the above Amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully

requested. No new matter is believed added.

Claims 1-3, 7-10 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Freeman et al. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Fujizu.

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Fujizu and Ishikawa.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3 and 7-10, it is respectfully submitted that Freeman et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, claims 1, 2 and 7 have been amended to further clarify that the video conferencing station of the present invention includes payment means that is operable to receive standard commercial credit cards and/or currency. This is in contrast to the system of Freeman et al., which is operable to receive only proprietary debit cards. See Col. 2, lines 48-68 of Freeman et al. in which it is taught that the debit card has decrementable record of the number of monetary units remaining, stored in the memory thereof. Such a system is disadvantageous because it: (1) requires that users purchase their debit cards from a central issuing authority; (2) requires that user maintain a prepaid balance; and (3) renders the system (of Freeman et al.) incompatible or un-useable with standard commercial credit cards. Accordingly, the system of Freeman et al. cannot be made available to members of the general public who wish to videoconference using currency or a standard bank credit card, or who have not purchased a prepaid proprietary debit card. Accordingly, because the cited art fails to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above clarifications to claims 1 and 7, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections involving claims 4-6 should be withdrawn as well.

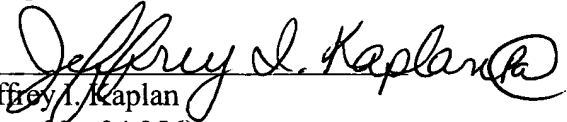
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further would

be helpful in resolving the issues presented, (s)he is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATED: August 29, 2000


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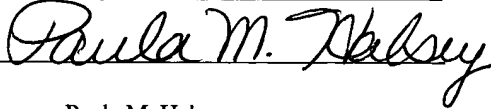
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 On August 29, 2000.

Dated August 29, 2000

Signed



Print Name Paula M. Halsey